(c) and (d) Yes sir. This Ministry has assessed the work of NGOs and has not found any case of misutilising the Government's funds in Himachal Pradesh.

Under-utilisation of funds by States

2393. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the States are unable to utilize the funds meant for the targeted groups; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI M ANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Some States are not able to utilize funds meant for the targeted groups timely. Non-availability of matching share from the State Governments, non-submission of adequate proposals by the State Governments, and the delay in utilization of funds released earlier are among the main reasons.

Misuse of official aircrafts in SAIL

2394. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that top executives of SAIL are misusing official aircrafts;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the precautions taken for non-occurrence of such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) SAIL has stated that there has been no instance of misuse of its aircrafts by top executives.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fire in VSP

2395. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the last week of June, 2001, fire broke out in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant causing heavy loss of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production work in the plant has been started; and

(d) if not, by when the work will start again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ K1SHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There was a Tire in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant on 29th June*2001. A few number of power and control cables of different sizes were burnt over a length of 40 meters. Estimated loss due to fire is Rs. 9.8 lakhs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Docs not arise.

Demand and Production of Domestic Steel

† 2396. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the overall domestic demand of steel and the steps taken to meet increasing domestic demand;

(b) the production of steel in the year 1999-2000 in the country and the percentage contributed by public and private sector; and

(c) the total consumption of steel products in the year 1999-2000 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OFTHE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) The total domestic demand/apparent consumption of steel during 2000-01 has been 26.65 million tonnes (Provisional). The Indian iron and steel industry is fully capable of meeting almost all the requirements of steel in the country barring a few sizes and grades.

(b) The production of steel in the year 1999-2000 was 26.71 million tonnes. The percentage contributed by public and private sector was 42% and 58% respectively.

(c) The total consumption of finished steel during the year 1999-2000 was 25.01 million tonnes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.